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REVIEWED BY Irma Dzenbery DT 12/23/81
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6370
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4143
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2448

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5145

CINCPAC FOR ROLAD

REF: SAIGON 5024

1. PRESS CONFERENCE OF DEFEATED CIVILIAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES SCHEDULED FOR SEPT 7 (REFTEL) DID NOT TAKE PLACE. ACCORDING TO TRAN VAN CHIEU, DZU'S VICE-PRESIDENTIAL RUNNING MATE WHO HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN ARRANGMENTS, CONFERENCE NOT PERMITTED TO BE HELD BY LT COL VAN VAN CUA, PREFECT OF SAIGON, WHO REPORTEDLY STATED THAT SINCE ELECTION CAMPAIGN OVER, NORMAL RULES AGAIN APPLY, WHICH REQUIRE THAT PERMISSION BE OBTAINED FOR ANY MEETING OF MORE THAN SIX PERSONS. APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION MUST BE SUBMITTED TO PREFECT SEVEN DAYS IN ADVANCE.

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2. LARGE CROWD (ABOUT 400) OF JOURNALISTS, BOTH VIETNAMESE AND FOREIGN, AND CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF POLITICAL FIGURES,

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ON HAND FOR PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH SCHEDULED TO BE HELD AT CONTINENTAL HOTEL. AFTER POLICE TOLD SUU CONFERENCE COULD NOT BE HELD, SUU, WHO HAD BEEN EXPECTED PRESIDE OVER CONFERENCE, PROCEEDED TO STEPS OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WHERE, ASSISTED BY TRUONG DINH DZU AND HOANG CO BINH, HE HELD IMPROMPTU PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH FULLY COVERED BY PRESS. (WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE HOW MUCH OF THIS APPEARS IN VIETNAMESE PRESS.) SUU ISSUED SHORT STATEMENT IN BOTH VIETNAMESE AND ENGLISH WHICH, FROM SPEED OF DISTRIBUTION, AND DATE OF SEPTEMBER 6 MUST HAVE BEEN INTENDED FOR DISTRIBUTION AT ORIGINAL PRESS CONFERENCE. STATEMENT, WHICH SIGNED BY SUU, HOANG CO BING, TRUONG DINH DZU, TRAN VAN LY, NGUYEN HOA HIPE, VU HONG KHANH, AS FOLLOWS:

QTE STATEMENT BY PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES OF SEVEN CIVILIAN SLATES.

QTE WE UNDERSIGNED, PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES OF SEVEN CIVILIAN SLATES, DECLARE SOLEMNLY BEFORE

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NATION AND BEFORE INTERNATION OPINION THAT: 1) SEPTEMBER 3, 1967 ELECTIONS ARE FRAUDULENT; 2) WE DO NOT RECOGNIZE THESE FRAUDULAENT ELECTIONS; 3) WE WILL REQUEST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO EXAMINE OUR COMPLAINT WITH ALL EVIDENCE WE PRESENT AND REQUEST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO DECLARE INVALID ELECTIONS ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 56 OF ELCTORAL LAW NO. 001/67 AND TO DECIDE CONDITIONA OF ORGANIZAING NEW ELECTIONS. UNQTE

3. ALTHOUGH STATEMENT IN ENGLISH VERSION REFERS TO SEVEN CIVILIAN SLATES, VIETNAMESE VERSION SIMPLY USED PLURAL TERM FOR CIVILIAN SLATES WITHOUT SPECIFYING NUMBER. ACCORDING DZU'S RUNNING MATE, TRAN VAN CHIEU, SEVEN SLATES ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO SIGN STATEMENT, BUT HA THUC KY DID NOT SIGN. THUS, STATEMENT ONLY SIGNED BY SIX CANDIDATES, AS STATED IN PARA 2 ABOVE.

4. COMPLAINT RREFERRED TO IN STATEMENT SIGNED BY SIX CANDIDATES IS LETTER SENT TO CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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(I. E. SUU), DATED SEPTEMBER 5 AND SIGNED BY EIGHT PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES (ALL DEFEATED CIVILIAN CANDIDATES EXCEPT HA THUC KY AND TRAN VAN HOUNG). TEXT THIS LETTER BEING TRANSLATED AND WILL BE SUBMITTED BY SEPTEL.

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5. WHILE STATEMENT AND TEXT OF LETTER OF PROTEST BEING DISTRIBUTED (BY BEING TOSSED HIGH INTO THE AIR), SUU, DZU, BINH, AND LATER ON DR PHAN QUANG DAN SURROUNDED SIX DEEP BY NEESMEN, WHO ASKED NUMBER OF QUESTIONS WHICH EMBOFFS UNABLE TO HEAR. CONSIDERING CIRCUMSTANCES AND PRESS OF CROWD, BELIEVE ANY STATEMENTS THAT MAY BE ATTRIBUTED TO SUU, DAN, DZU, OR BINH SHOULD BE TREATED WITH RESERVE. WE HAVE BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE BE IN CONTACT WITH THEM AND WILL REPORT THEIR VIEWS FULLY. EMBOFF SEEING DZU THIS AFTERNOON.

6. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF IN FRONT OF ASSEMBLY THIS MORNING TRAN VAN CHIEU, DZU'S RUNNING MATE, SAID QTE OUR PURPOSE NOW IS TO LIMIT DAMAGES UNQTE, POINTING OUT THAT ANY RECOURSE TO STREETS WOULD PLAY INTO HANDS OF COMMUNISTS. THIS IS SIMILAR TO CHIEU'S VIEWS REPORTED IN REFTEL, THOUGH REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHAT DZU'S ATTITUDE WILL BE.

GP-3. BUNKER

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